

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Inventor(s) : Ian ANDERSON  
 Serial No : 09/720,604  
 Filed : April 9, 2001  
 For : PLUG AND GLAND ASEPTIC PACKAGE SYSTEM  
 Examiner : John Paradiso  
 Art Unit : 3721



*Amelt*  
*# 8/A*  
*2/6/03*  
*B Ross*

Commissioner for Patents  
 Washington, D.C. 20231

**AMENDMENT**

S I R:

In response to the Office Action of August 27, 2002, kindly amend the above-captioned application as follows:

01/31/2003	BABRAHA1	00000035	110600	09720604
01	FC:1202		270.00	CH
02	FC:1201		672.00	CH

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

On a separate page, after the claims, please add the following

Abstract:

**--Abstract**

AI  
 A method of aseptically filling an internally sterilized sealed container having a transfer port which comprises a tubular body which is sealed to the wall of the container and defines a flow passage therethrough, and a sealing plug engaged into the passage, the tubular body having an annular outer sealing face thereon which surrounds the flow passage, including the steps of: supporting the tubular body of the container in a selected orientation and position; providing a sterilization and filling head having at least an outer sealing ring thereon which is adapted to engage and seal with the annular sealing face, and a sterilization chamber located inwards of and at least partially defined by the outer sealing ring; bringing the sterilization and filling head and the tubular body into engagement with each other so that the outer sealing face; introducing a sterilization fluid into the sterilization chamber to sterilize at least the radially outer part of the plug and that part of the tubular body within the outer sealing ring; withdrawing the plug out of the tubular body in a direction away from the

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